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Nativeorganizing.org

The Honorable Brian Schatz
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs
838 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Vice Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Pass S.2907 - Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act

Chairman Schatz and Vice Chairman Murkowski,

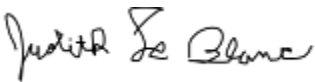
The mission of Native Organizers Alliance (NOA) is to amplify the power of Tribes, organizations, and communities to drive policy change in Indian Country. NOA believes our lands, waters, cultural resources, and communities are best protected when the rights of Tribal Nations are upheld, and the voices of Native peoples are heard. NOA urges the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs to pass S. 2907 - Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act. This legislation would authorize a comprehensive investigation of educational institutions in which Indigenous children endured trauma that has since been passed through generations. It will support the creation of national survivor resources that will increase our capacity to rise in resilience, heal from wounds of the past, and move forward with power into the future. A political moment is upon us.

We urge you to take action to make recommendations to identify the Tribes from which children were taken, protect unmarked burial sites of our children, ensure repatriation for our relatives when their families have requested that they be returned home, and to discontinue the removal of Indigenous children from their communities. While we cannot erase the past, we can create a

permanent record of the stories of those who survived attempts of genocide, and leverage policy change to heal.

Alongside the work of the Department of Interior and Secretary Deb Haaland's initiative with the Red Road to Healing, this legislation will prove that the Biden-Harris administration is committed to making a lasting and positive impact on Indigenous peoples in response to the trauma caused by federal policies throughout the course of history in the United States. Enactment of S. 2907 will promote truth, justice, and healing. I urge the Committee to pass S.2907 when it comes before the U.S. Senate.

With Respect and Thanks,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Judith LeBlanc". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the closing phrase "With Respect and Thanks,".

Judith LeBlanc, Citizen of Caddo Nation
Executive Director, Native Organizers Alliance